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PRESS RELEASE

USAID PROJECT ON ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE LAUNCHES IN UZBEKISTAN



On June 18, USAID launched its Aglinks project at the Dedeman hotel in Tashkent. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Investments and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, “Uzulgurzhisavdoinvest” Association and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, and the U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Richard Norland attended the ceremony. Representatives of other government and local authorities, donor organizations, business associations, agrifirms, farms, enterprises and private companies working in the area of fruits and vegetables production, processing and exports, as well as local service providers to fruits and vegetables sector also took part in the event.

The Regional Director of the AgLinks Project, Dr. Charles May, and the Country Project Director in Uzbekistan, Mr. Sharof Mashrabi, presented the goals of the project, namely to improve the efficiency of the fruit and vegetable sector in Uzbekistan.

In recent years, the world demand for various fruits and vegetables has grown steadily. Uzbekistan has a huge production and export potential to meet this demand. The Government of Uzbekistan has adopted a number of legal and regulatory documents to develop and enhance the competitiveness of the fruit and vegetable sector.

USAID’s regional AgLinks Project, in collaboration with the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, will help to build the agricultural capacity of the country. The project seeks to increase fruits and vegetables yields and production efficiency through improved links between producers (farm entities and dehkan farms) and local service providers (agrifirms, processing enterprises, seed, fertilizer, chemicals suppliers, and transportation service providers).

Active until September 2011, Aglinks will work with over 1,100 dehkan farms and farm entities, 6-8 agrifirms, as well as, nearly 20 local service providers working in the fruit and vegetable sector in Namangan, Ferghana, Samarkand and Tashkent provinces of Uzbekistan. The project will help local agricultural entities develop strategic plans, establish long-term mutually beneficial relationships between exporters and importers, as well as improve the management and general operation of agrifirms. Aglinks will also introduce modern technology and equipment, improve access to credit and financial resources, and work to eliminate administrative and legislative constraints which hinder the development of the fruit and vegetable sector in Uzbekistan.

Aglinks is one of many USAID Projects in Uzbekistan, rendering assistance in the development of the economy, health care and agriculture of the country.